

## Barnes, Ian (from The Forester)

The IFA Board of Directors at its meeting in May 2006 was unanimous in accepting the nomination of Ian Barnes as a Fellow of the Institute of Foresters of Australia, for outstanding service to forestry and the Institute of Foresters of Australia.

Ian was presented with the Fellow Certificate at the NSW Division IFA Annual Dinner following the AGM at North Sydney, on 18 August 2006. The presentation was made by Nick Cameron, Divisional Secretary, who worked closely with Ian in the Southern Region at Bateman's Bay.



Ian Barnes graduated with a Bachelor of Science (Forestry) in 1976 from the Australian National University and joined the IFA in 1977 while in his first posting to Kyogle as a field forester with the then Forestry Commission of NSW, which changed to State Forests and is now Forests NSW.

Ian gained valuable experience in this role and after 5 years in Kyogle moved to Kempsey in 1982 where he worked for 3 years as a specialist in aerial photographic interpretation. His experience on the north coast of NSW managing native hardwood forests was a valuable training ground for his future career.

After Kempsey, Ian moved to Bega and became District Forester there. Bega was a busy place at that time with the large scale hardwood operations to supply the local sawmilling industry as well as Harris Daishowa at Eden. There was considerable controversy in the area with a full program of forest inquiries and protests from conservation groups. Ian became a strong

protests from conservation groups. Ian became a strong advocate for hardwood forest management and had many occasions when his professionalism was tested during this period.

After Bega, Ian moved to Bateman's Bay in 1992 as Regional Planning Manager, where he still is today, and has made many significant contributions since taking on that role. Ian's career includes 25 years of practical forestry management experience in a large forest management agency.

Some of Ian's achievements during his career have been;

As a strategic decision maker and negotiator:

- In 1995, Ian volunteered for a 6 month 'tour of duty' with the Federal Department of Primary Industries & Energy as Acting Secretary for the Standing Committee on Forestry, to better inform himself on Australia's strategic forestry issues.
- Ian recognised very early the significance of the NSW Government's native forest reform agenda and led State Forests' Comprehensive Regional Assessment of its south-east forests (1996-97 Comprehensive Regional Assessment Coordinator);
- Ian proved to be an effective inter-departmental negotiator on forested land management issues with other NSW agencies, including the NPWS, EPA, DUAP, DEC and DNR;
- Ian has been relied upon to defend forestry practices in the southern NSW forests when protest actions have arisen, a big job that requires collaboration with police, media and local

government. Ian managed incidents at Bega, Badja, Tallaganda and Wandella.

As a long term committed advocate of the practical application of sustainable forest management:

- Ian continues to play an important role in advancing native forest management planning standards and information systems in NSW;
- In 2001 Ian developed and managed the technical implementation of a 5 year \$4 million silviculture program for southern forests;

- Ian guided the development and managed the implementation of Integrated Forest Operations Approvals (IFOA) for the southern NSW Forests;
- Ian was the architect of Ecologically Sustainable Forest Management plans for the southern NSW forests.

As a leader in a variety of disciplines:

- Ian has been a leader within the IFA, in various roles including as President;
- In the field of forest mensuration where Ian chaired a resources functional working group within State Forests for 5 years;
- Ian has acted as an Incident Controller for many large fires and is a highly experienced manager of bushfires. He was recognised as a pragmatic voice of reason in times of emergency during the 2003 bushfires in the Southern Alps;

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- Ian has been and continues as a mentor for many who work in the forests of southern NSW.

Ian recognised the importance of the IFA early in his career and became a loyal and committed forestry professional:

- He has been an active voting member of the IFA for 19 years from 1977;
- He was Chair of IFA NSW Southern Branch, 1999-2000;
- Ian was chair of the NSW Division and Director of the IFA, 2001-2003;
- Ian was National President & Chair of the IFA for three years, 2003-2005.
- He became a Registered Practicing Forester in October 2004.

Ian's preparedness to volunteer and accept nomination for the time consuming and sometimes difficult roles within the IFA over a significant period demonstrates a high level of integrity to the profession. Ian has been a strong supporter of IFA members and has always been prepared to discuss issues and attend IFA functions.

A significant achievement which Ian has made as President has been the building of IFA into a strong well managed financially sound association with an up-to-date Strategic Plan. He nurtured the RPF scheme and fostered a culture of big picture professionalism during his watch.